

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : OC Equipment Board Members

SED-M74-121

DATE: 4 October 1974

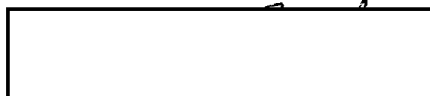
FROM : Secretary, OC Equipment Board

SUBJECT: OC Equipment Board Meeting No. 5-74

REF : SED-M74-118 dated 1 October 1974

The reference is being amended to include a fourth item to be reviewed at the OC Equipment Board Meeting No. 5-74.

- a. Reassessment of CAFT Objectives
(OC-E/SED)



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Secretary, OC Equipment Board

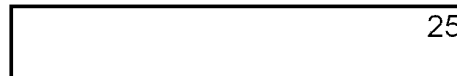
Attachment:

Reassessment of CAFT
Objectives

Distribution:

- 1 - DD/CO
- 1 - C/OC-O
- 1 - C/OC-E
- 1 - C/OC-CS
- 1 - C/OC-P&B
- 1 - C/OC-S
- 1 - Board Secretary

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OCE-M-74-466
1 Oct. 74

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Communications

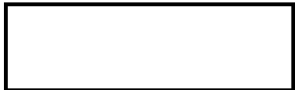
SUBJECT : Reassessment of Computer Assisted Field
Terminal (CAFT) Objectives

1. Attached is a copy of the report on the reassessment of the objectives which had been stated for the CAFT program. When the decision was taken against procurement of any CAFT systems in FY-1974, the decision was also made to conduct such a reassessment.

2. The reassessment concluded that, while CAFT (as specified and proposed) was premature for implementation in our network and was not cost-effective in terms of those benefits which could be realized at this time, the objectives for the program were and are essentially valid.

3. The CAFT objectives, as well as the network limitations which were exposed during the CAFT proposal evaluation and borne out in the reassessment, constitute inputs to the Network Improvement Plan. Only when the total objectives and capabilities of the overall network have been validated will it be possible to determine what segments of the network (switches, links, and/or terminals) require modification to meet the requirements most effectively. Recommendations for terminal improvements may include a redefined computer assisted field terminal or a more fully automated field terminal, among other possibilities.

4. Other segments of the Network Improvement Plan study are underway and will be reported on as they are completed.


Acting Chief, Communications Engineering

Attachment:
Reassessment of CAFT Objectives Report

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Distribution:

- Original - Addressee, w/att (1 cy)
1 - C/OC-O, w/att (2 cys)
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COORD: [] In Draft) 9-27-74
Chief, OC [] Date

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OC-E/SED/SYB [] (30 September 1974)

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26 September 1974

SUBJECT: Reassessment of CAFT Objectives

A. Introduction

Many man-years of effort were expended on what came to be known as the Computer Assisted Field Terminal (CAFT) program, including the collection of data on field terminal operations, development of objectives for the improvement of those operations, conceptual design of a new terminal configuration, acquisition and testing of a prototype terminal, and writing of specifications and solicitation of proposals for a family of terminals. Following the technical evaluation of the proposals which were received, the decision was made that the Office of Communications could not justify the expenditure of the required funds on the basis of the benefits to be derived. It was further decided that a reassessment of the objectives of the CAFT program would be undertaken in the context of the overall network and of future requirements. The immediate goal of this reassessment was to determine the validity and sufficiency of the proposed CAFT objectives, following which a determination could be made as to those improvements which might be required in the network to achieve the stated objectives. It was recognized that those improvements might include, or even be wholly contained within, the implementation of a CAFT-type system either as last specified or significantly modified. This paper provides the results of the reassessment. It is one segment of the overall study being conducted under the Network Improvement Plan.

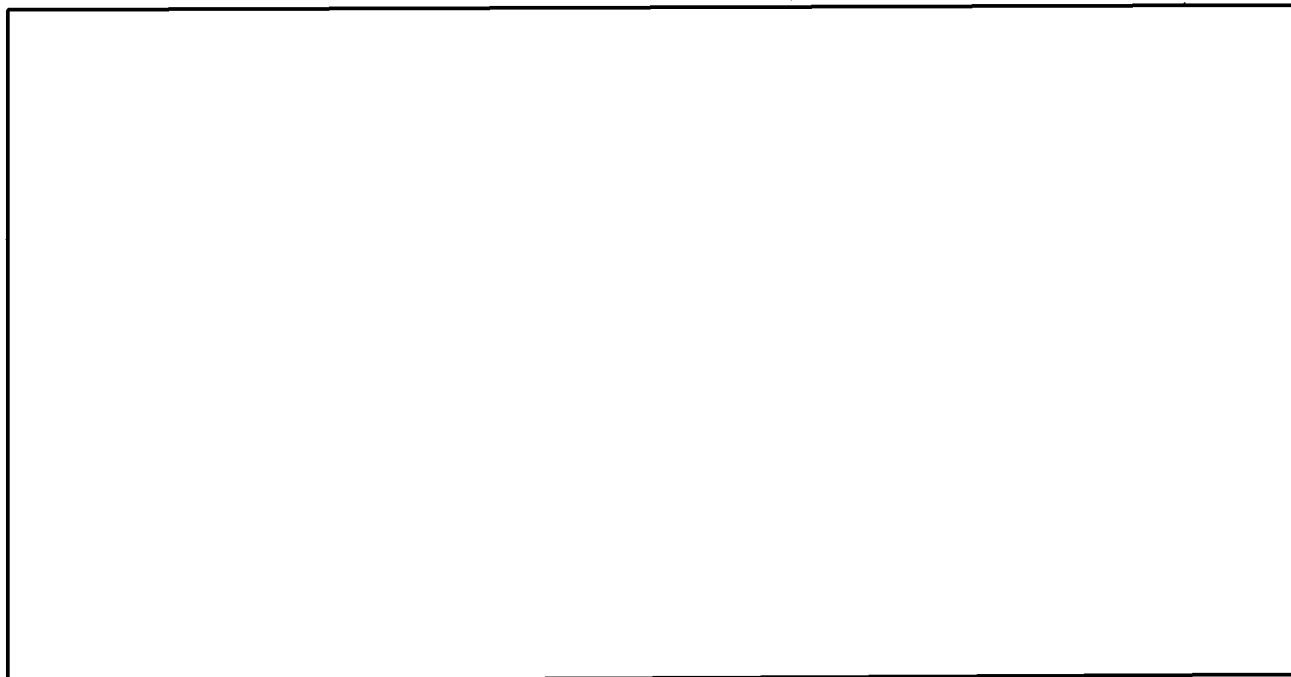
B. Objectives of CAFT

While there were many specific objectives associated with the CAFT system, [REDACTED] categories: replacement of obsolescent terminal equipment, improvement of resource utility, and improvement of customer service. Each of these objectives is described below with the goal of revalidating and specifying implementation problems for each requirement. To fulfill these objectives, the CAFT system was to consist of a central mini-processor with primary and secondary storage, a visual display unit, an optical scanner for the medium and larger terminals, a high speed printer to provide the required number of copies at "original" quality, and an associated ASR teletype unit for backup purposes.

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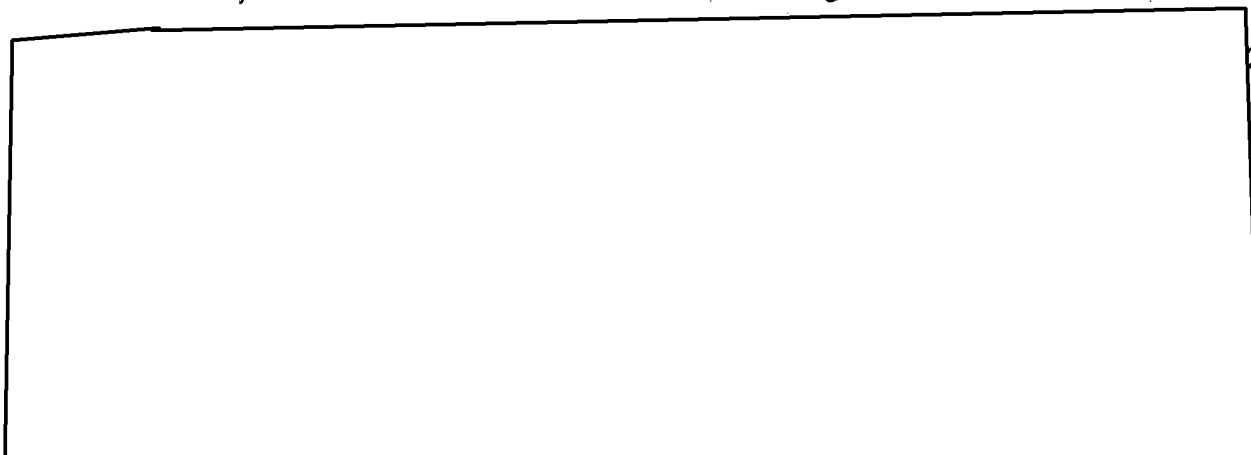
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2. Improvement of Resource Utility

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A major objective for any Computer Assisted Field Terminal should be the enhancement of the manner in which resources are utilized. Field terminal resources can be subdivided into two main categories, human and machine. The Phase I AFT Field Station Study documented the various tasks that were performed by the communicator on a daily basis. Many of the routine and inefficient functions were incorporated into the CAFT specifications, however, as will be shown, this could not produce the dramatic changes that were expected because other system limitations were not being dealt with.



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